



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-4239)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (13-4120)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner Burton joined the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Commissioner Burton reminded the Commission that Commissioner Grills is back to work because the University is back in full session. Commissioner Grills requested to be excused from the Commission's meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month because she oversees the Council of Chairs meeting with the Dean's Office at the University: Staff concurred that Commissioner Grills also sent an email advising the Commission.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- 1. Approval of the August 28, 2013 Minutes. (13-4121)**

On motion of Commissioner Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 28,

2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Chairperson's Report on various items for September 4, 2013. (13-4122)

Chairperson Montaña expressed gratitude to Commissioner Grills (excused) for providing the Commission with copies of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's studies on juvenile incarceration titled, "No Place for Kids" and "Juvenile Justice, Mental Health and Youth of Color: A Framework for Action in Texas."

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

➤ **Los Angeles Times:**

- **Combating child prostitution (September 4, 2013)**
- **Families who foster deserve parity (September 3, 2013)**
- **A MUCH MORE SUPERIOR COURT (August 28, 2013)**
- **Exhumations revive ghosts of Florida school (September 3, 2013)**
- **'It's modern-day slavery' (September 1, 2013)**
- **Getting tough on sex trade (September 4, 2013)**

➤ **Daily Breeze:**

- **Tortured boy's family to sue Los Angeles County (August 29, 2013)**
- **Plan calls for going after adult offenders (September 9, 2013)**
- **ERASING THE PAST (September 4, 2013)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report for September 4, 2013. (13-4124)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$625.96.

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4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for September 4, 2013. (13-4125)

Staff provided to Chairperson Montaña the group home compliance monitoring audit review reports for the Boys Town of California Group Home, that was received from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services during the reporting period.

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on September 4, 2013. (13-4127)

In Compliance:

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Rosemary's Children Services (Main Site), Page 35, #2, on August 30, 2013.**

6. Commissioners' Report on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from August 29, 2013 through September 3, 2013. (13-4128)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Harbor View Treatment Center, Page 43, #3, on September 3, 2013. They reported that the facility was purchased by Generic Health Care, funded by Department of Mental Health and licensed by Department of Public Health. Also reported was that the institution for mental health has a 90-day program to rehabilitate the youth that are rated beyond the Rate Classification Level (RCL) of 14.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited West Covina Superior Courthouse on August 29, 2013. He reported that the public entrance into the courthouse has been moved to the west entrance to accommodate traffic. Also, there were temporary battery operated lights that were displayed in the courthouse.**

During the reporting period, the following Group Home/Lockup Facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition.

- **Commissioner Burton and Commissioner Grills visited the House of Bethesda, Page 39, #3, on August 30, 2013. A corrective action form was issued for the following:**
 - **The quick release bar in bedroom # 3 needs repair and the bar in bedroom #1 was blocked by a bed.**

- Medicines need to be stored in separate containers and double locked.
- Bedroom # 2 dresser needs to be replaced
- The kitchen - stove pilot light on the left side needs repair.
- The vehicle (Ford Aerostar) front seat is broken and has considerable amount of graffiti and wear and tear. There was no service log.
- The bedrooms need some wall decorations, the rooms appear sparse and bare.
- Carbon Monoxide detectors need to be installed.
- The House Rules, Youth Rights and Daily Schedule postings were missing.
- Bedroom # 3 mattress is almost ready to be replaced.

III. DISCUSSIONS

7. The review, discussion and follow-up action on the Commission's 2013/2014 goals. (13-4129)

In discussing the 2013-2014 goals, Commissioner Burton recommended that the Commission should consider exploring options to determine if there are other things that the Commission can do differently and/or in addition to their routine inspections to further enhance how recommendations are made, to ensure that proper care is being provided to the youth. An example cited was to look more into how the psychotropic medications are being prescribed and administered to the youth in the group homes. There was a brief discussion on whether or not the Commissioners have the expertise to determine what is or isn't the appropriate psychotropic dosages that should be prescribed and/or administered to the youth. The Commission will further discuss the subject matter at future meetings prior to setting the goals and objectives for 2014.

After reviewing the Commission's 2013 goals and objectives, the Commissioners were in concurrence that the Commission needs to boost up its activities as it relates to the inspection of the youth facilities

and jails in the northwest area of Los Angeles County to ensure that the set goal is met by the end of 2013.

There were also conversations surrounding setting the goals for 2014. The Commission will be more specific in outlining its goals as it relates to the inspection of group homes, probation camps and the Commission's collaborative work with the Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department. The Commission will also consider streamlining the requirements for the Sybil Brand Commission (SBC) scholarship as one of its goals. The 2014 goals and objectives will be discussed and set during one of its regular meetings in December 2013.

The following discussion items on 2014 goals and objectives were continued to the next meeting:

- Discussions regarding making concrete recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on the Commission's experiences, observations and findings during their inspections.
- Discussions regarding the possibility of inviting the Commissioners from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Courts to attend one of SBC's regular meetings to share experiences and possibly make recommendations regarding the untimely release of youth from group homes to their families.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-4130)

The were no matters not posted.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-4131)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of September 4, 2013. (13-4132)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of September 4, 2013 at 11:58 a.m.